in rural areas of Ajmer district, are as Under:

Exchange	Pending applications
Pranheda	2
Ghogra	6
Kadel	2

These are long distance connections of about 9 Km distance in case of Ghogra and 11 Km. in case of Kadel. These connections are planned to be provided during 1997-98. Line and wire material is being procured.

(d) There are 11 places where 10-15 persons have already deposited forms. The telephone services are planned to be provided during 1997-98.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

[English]

E.D. Employees

3075. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) whether the committee appointed to study the working conditions of E.D. Staff in the Postal Department has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations made by the committee; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) One man Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Charanjit Talwar, retired Judge of Delhi High Court has been set up to examine the conditions of services and emoluments and other facilities available to the Extra-Departmental Agents. The tenure of the Justice Talwar Committee has been extended on existing terms and conditions for a further period from 1.10.96 to 15.2.97 or three months from the date of submission of the report of the VIth Pay Commission, whichever is later.

Registration of SCs/STs & OBCs

3076. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handicapped persons and persons belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes registered with the employment exchanges in Tamil Nadu as on October, 1996;

(b) the number of persons belonging to above categories provided employment during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the quota fixed for the above categories has been filled up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The number of Physically Handicapped, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Job-seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, who were on the live register of employment exchanges in Tamil Nadu is indicated below :

	Categories	No. on Live Register (in thousands)
1.	Physically Handicapped (as on 31st December, 1995) (latest available)	47.2
2.	Scheduled Caste (as on 30th June, 1995) (latest available)	738.5
3.	Scheduled Tribe (as on 30th June, 1995) (latest available)	11.8

Information relating to Other Backward Classes are not maintained.

(b) The number of Physically Handicapped, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Job-seekers placed in employment by the employment exchanges in Tamil Nadu during the year 1993, 1994 and 1995 is indicated below :

(in thousands)

Year	Number placed in employment		
	Physically Handicapped	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
1993	1.1	5.2	0.2
1994	0.9	2.5	0.1
1995	0.9	1.3*	0.1*

* Related to Jan.-June, 1995.

(c) and (d). As per the demand of employers, the Employment Exchanges submit the list of handicapped candidates as also the candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for filling up to the vacancies reserved for them.

Decline of Workers in Gulf Country

3077. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of persons going to Gulf countries for work from the country has been continuously declining;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The number of persons who emigrated for work abroad, including in the gulf countries, after getting clearance/endorsements from the offices of Protectors of Emigrants (POE) during the years 1993, 1994, and 1995 was as under :

1993	:	4,38,338
1994	:	4,25,385
1995	:	4,15,334

It would be seen that there was a marginal decline in the number of workers emigrating for work, after getting clearance/endorsement from POE offices. This, however, does not mean that there is an actual decrease in the number of persons emigrating for work, in absolute terms. Persons included in the category of professionals and skilled workers are not required to get emigration clearance from offices of Protector of Emigrants in case their passports are stamped 'Emigration Check Not Required'. It is likely that a number of persons belonging to this category also emigrated for work. No information in respect of such emigrants is available.

Computer System Collapsed

3078. PROF AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that software running in the computer system installed at the air cargo terminal at the Indira Gandhi International airport collapsed a week after its operation causing huge loss to the exporters;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the estimated loss suffered by the exporters as a result thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). No Sir. The computerised processing of the export documents pertaining to duty free goods and for Drawback at the Air Cargo Unit IGI Airport under the Delhi Customs concerned with effect from 3-6-1996 and 1-11-1996 respectively. Due to the changeover form manual to computerised system the number of documents cleared in the first few days was less than the normal output. To meet the exact requirements of the computerised system, the documents received from exporters had been returned. However, the system has stabilised and is working satisfactorily.

Chief Reservation Supervisor

3079. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Northern and Western Railways have been discouraging lady members of staff on their existing strength from holding the post of Chief Reservation Supervisor;

(b) if so, whether some of the staff members have been representing to the Government on this account, and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Accidents in Bokaro Steel Plant

3080. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents took place in Bokaro Steel Plant during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of employees died, injured seriously and received minor injuries in these accidents;

(c) the causes of accidents, the number of committees constituted for investigation of accidents, alongwith when these committees were constituted;

(d) the number of the committees whose reports are still awaited;

(e) the details of the Committee reports received till now;

(f) whether recommendations of the reports have been implemented; and

(g) the year-wise details of action taken against officials/employees found guilty for these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a to (g). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Computerised Post Offices in U.P.

3081. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices computerised in Uttar Pradesh, District-wise, Location-wise; and

(b) the number of post offices likely to the computerised during 1996-97?